

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

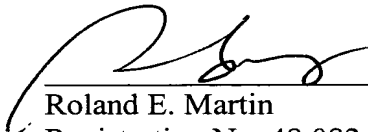
It is Applicants' position that the election of species requirement is improper, since the claims of Group I, Claims 1-13 are not directed to species of the claimed invention, but, instead, are directed to a combination-subcombination invention under M.P.E.P. § 806.05(c), which requires two-way distinctness in order to divide claims of Group I into further groups. Since two-way distinctness has not been shown between the combination-subcombination claims of Group I, it is requested that all claims in Group I be examined in the present application.

Further, if the Examiner finds no art over which the elected species is rejectable, it is requested that the Examiner extend the search to cover non-elected species.

Accordingly, for the reasons presented above, it is submitted that the Patent and Trademark Office has failed to meet the burden necessary to sustain the election of species requirement. Withdrawal of the election of species requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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